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NO. 149

RALEIGH, N. C.

DECEMBER 23, 1953

## 1953 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY

### DROUGHT TAKES HEAVY TOLL *Piedmont Hardest Hit*

The 1953 Crop Season witnessed another year of deficient moisture in North Carolina -- a continuation of the droughty conditions which had plagued the State during much of the time since the Fall of 1949. Rainfall during the Winter and early Spring of 1952-53 was adequate to produce good yields of small grains. Conditions continued fairly favorable until early May when temperatures ranged unusually high and showers became less frequent. General rains in early June and again at mid-June got Spring-planted crops off to an unusually good start, but these were the last rains of consequence in many areas of the State throughout the growing season. The Piedmont and northern Mountain counties were particularly hard hit, and it is in these areas that the most severe effects of the Summer drought were experienced.

Prospects for production of Spring-sown crops on July 1 have seldom been better,  
*(Continued on page 2)*

### DROUGHT AND WEEVILS DAMAGE COTTON HEAVILY

The North Carolina cotton crop for 1953 is now estimated at 453,000 bales (500 lbs. gross weight) -- 20 percent below the 569,000 bales produced in 1952 and 13 percent below the 10-year (1942-51) average production of 522,000 bales. The 1953 cotton crop got off to a favorable start. Although some replanting was necessary, most growers were able to attain above normal stands of cotton. Weed growth and fruiting were very good until late in July  
*(Continued on page 8)*

### FLUE-CURED CROP OFF 8 PERCENT Drought Hits Type 11

Total production of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina during 1953 is estimated at 823,885,000 pounds. This is about 8 percent less than production in 1952 but just over 6 percent larger than the 1942-51 average. Flue-cured acreage harvested in the State this year totaled 674,000 acres -- 8 percent less than the 735,000 acres harvested in 1952 and slightly more than average of 670,000 acres.

Type 11 production in North Carolina from the 1953 crop is estimated at 247,680,000 pounds, which is 25 percent below 1952, 13 percent below the 1942-51 average, and the smallest crop since 1943. There were 258,000 acres harvested this season. Thus, an average yield of 960  
*(Continued on page 2)*

### CORN CROP 6 PERCENT BELOW AVERAGE Silage Up Sharply

Equivalent total grain production on the acreage of corn harvested for all purposes (grain, silage and forage) in North Carolina during 1953 is estimated at 57,699,000 bushels. This is 4 percent above production last year, but 6 percent below the 10-year (1942-51) average. Production from acres harvested for grain was 54,945,000 bushels, 5 percent above the 1952 crop of 52,402,000 bushels.

The 1953 planting season was generally favorable for getting corn in the ground and up to a stand. Production from early plantings, generally, was much better than  
*(Continued on page 2)*



## CROP SUMMARY *(Continued)*

with record or near-record yields indicated for most crops. As the season progressed, however, it became evident that final harvest would fall somewhere below earlier expectations. Final production of corn was 23 percent below the July 1 forecast due to the adverse effects of the drought and the damage from a tropical hurricane during the second week of August. More than 60 million pounds of tobacco were counted as casualty to the dry, hot weather, with Type II tobacco being the most severely affected. Loss of hay tonnage was quite severe, and pastures deteriorated rapidly. A comparatively poor crop of cotton resulted from a combination of excessive drought and excessive insect damage. Most other crops suffered to a smaller degree.

Weather conditions were unusually favorable for Fall harvest, but seeding and germination of small grain was retarded by dry soils. Recent general rains, although late, should be beneficial to Winter grain and pasture crops.

The acreage, yield, production and value of all crops in North Carolina and the United States appear in the tables on pages 4 and 5 of this publication.

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## FLUE-CURED CROP *(Continued)*

pounds per acre was realized, also, the lowest since 1943. The Old and Middle Belts were particularly hard hit by drought conditions this season.

Production of Type 12 tobacco during 1953 is estimated at 456,780,000 pounds. This is about 1 percent more than was produced in 1952, 15 percent more than the average, and the third largest crop of record, being exceeded only in 1951 and 1947. The crop this season was harvested from 331,000 acres for an average yield of 1,380 pounds, second only to 1951 when an average yield of 1,435 pounds was made.

Border Belt (Type 13) production for 1953 now stands at 119,425,000 pounds. This year's crop is 3 percent larger than the 1952 crop, 26 percent larger than average, and second in weight only to 1951 when production reached 127,420,000 pounds. The 1953 crop was harvested from 85,000 acres. The average yield per acre

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rose to an all-time high of 1,405 pounds this season, comparing with the previous high of 1,385 pounds obtained in 1951.

The 1953 Burley crop in the State is expected to produce 19,380,000 pounds. This would be 4 percent below last year's production, about a fourth larger than average, and the fourth largest crop of record. This year's estimated production is below that of 1952, 1951, and 1945. It is estimated that 11,400 acres of Type 31 were harvested this season, averaging 1,700 pounds per acre.

Total U. S. flue-cured production for 1953 is estimated at 1,257,311,000 pounds -- 8 percent below that of 1952 but 10 percent above the 1942-51 average.

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## CORN CROP *(Continued)*

that from late plantings which bore the brunt of drought damage. Drought damage extended into about every section of the State, but it was the Piedmont crop which suffered greatest reduction in yields.

The average yield per acre harvested for grain was 27.5 bushels -- 2 bushels above the yield from the 1952 crop and one-tenth of a bushel above the 10-year average. The average yield per acre from the acreage harvested for all purposes was 27.0 bushels.

North Carolina growers harvested 2,137,000 acres of corn for all purposes this year -- 2 percent less than the 2,181,000 acres harvested in 1952 and 4 percent less than the 10-year average of 2,232,000 acres. The acreage harvested for grain in 1953 is estimated at 1,998,000 acres -- a reduction of 3 percent from last year. About 41.5 percent of the 1953 corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed.

Silage was harvested from a record 58,000 acres this year -- more than double the 28,000 cut for silage last year. While there has been an upward trend in corn for silage, the tremendous increase in acreage used for silage this year reflects an effort on the part of farmers to salvage drought damaged corn and to meet the dire need for feeds during the coming winter months. The acreage harvested for other purposes (forage, hogged, etc) declined 17 percent from 98,000 acres in 1952 to 81,000 acres in 1953.



## SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION 42 PERCENT ABOVE AVERAGE

Total combined production of small grains (wheat, oats, barley and rye) in North Carolina during 1953 is estimated at 26.2 million bushels -- 14 percent greater than the 22.9 million bushels harvested last year and 42 percent above the 10-year average production of 18.4 million bushels. The total acreage of small grains harvested during 1953 was 878,000 acres -- about 5 percent more than the 839,000 acres harvested in 1952 and 4 percent greater than the average of 846,000 acres. The combined yields of all small grains averaged 29.8 bushels per acre in 1953, nearly 2.5 bushels greater than the combined average in 1952 and 8.2 bushels above the 10-year average.

Rainfall during the growing season was adequate to produce good small grain crops, and the harvest season was unusually favorable for combining operations. Wheat and rye growers were a little later than usual in seeding their 1953 crops due to adverse weather during the optimum planting dates.

### Slightly Smaller Wheat Crop

The 1953 Tar Heel wheat crop totaled 8,200,000 bushels -- 4 percent short of 1952 production, but 20 percent more than the 1942-51 average crop. The 400,000 acres harvested for grain in 1953 was 2 percent under the acreage harvested in 1952 and 6 percent below average. Yields in 1953 averaged 20.5 bushels per acre -- 0.5 bushels under the 1952 yield, but 4.4 bushels above the 10-year average.

### Record Oats and Barley Crops Produced

North Carolina produced a record 16,093,000 bushels of oats during 1953 -- 27 percent more than the 1952 crop and 58 percent more than the 10-year average. The 418,000 acres harvested for grain were 12 percent above 1952 and 18 percent greater than average. The 1953 yield of 38.5 bushels per acre was 4.5 bushels above the 1952 yield, 10 bushels more than the 1942-51 average and 3 bushels above the previous record high per acre yield from the 1951 crop.

Barley production topped the previous record set in 1952 by 18 percent. The 1953 production was set at 1,650,000 bushels -- 65 percent above average. The 1953 yield per acre of 37.5 bushels was also a new record -- bettering the previous record set in 1951 by 1.5 bushels. The yield in 1952 was 32.5 bushels per acre and 1942-51 average is 26.2 bushels. There were 44,000 acres of barley harvested for grain in 1953, compared with 43,000 last year and the average of 39,000 acres.

### Rye Crop Below Average

The 1953 Tar Heel rye crop totaled 232,000 bushels -- 3 percent above the 1952 crop, but 23 percent less than average. Yields averaged 14.5 bushels per acre -- 0.5 bushels under 1952 yields, but 2.5 bushels above the average. It is estimated that 16,000 acres were harvested for grain in 1953, compared with 15,000 acres last year and the average of 26,000 acres.

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## COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION UP, VALUE DOWN

Production of commercial vegetables (excluding strawberries and Irish potatoes) in North Carolina totaled 160,300 tons in 1953 -- an increase of 10 percent from the 145,500 tons produced in 1952. The increase in production resulted both from a 7 percent increase in harvested acreage and higher yields in some of the major truck crops such as sweet corn, cucumbers, green peppers and watermelons. Production of all crops except lima beans, late Spring snap beans, beets, late Fal

cabbage, lettuce and strawberries was higher in 1953 than a year earlier.

The value of North Carolina's 1953 commercial vegetables for fresh market (excluding strawberries and Irish potatoes) totaled \$12,012,000 -- 8 percent less than the 1952 value of \$13,080,600. The unit value of all vegetables except lima beans, late Spring snap beans, late Fall cabbage and sweet corn in 1953 was the same as or lower than a year earlier. (See table, pages 4 & 5)



# ANNUAL SUMMARY - ACREAGE, YIELD PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF CROPS 1952 REVISED AND 1953 PRELIMINARY

CROP	UNIT	ACREAGE HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			SEASON'S AVE. PRICE $\frac{a}{b}$		VALUE OF PRODUCTION $\frac{a}{b}$	
		AVERAGE 1942-51	1952	1953	AVERAGE 1942-51	1952	1953	AVERAGE 1942-51	1952	1953	1952	1953	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Dollars
NORTH CAROLINA														
GENERAL CROPS														
Thousand Acres														
Units														
Thousands														
Dollars														
ALL CORN.....	Bu.	2,232	2,181	2,137	27.4	25.5	27.0	61,059	55,616	57,699	174	160	96,772	92,318
CORN, FOR GRAIN.....	Bu.	2,160	2,055	1,998	27.4	25.5	27.5	59,078	52,402	54,945	-	-	-	-
CORN, FOR SILAGE.....	Ton	18.5	28	58	9.4	8.5	9.0	176	238	522	-	-	-	-
CORN, FOR FORAGE.....	Bu.	53	98	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHEAT.....	Bu.	427	408	400	16.1	21.0	20.5	6,860	8,568	8,200	2.04	1.95	17,479	15,990
OATS.....	Bu.	354	373	418	28.5	34.0	38.5	10,206	12,682	16,093	.93	.84	11,794	13,518
BARLEY, FOR GRAIN.....	Bu.	39	43	44	25.2	32.5	37.5	1,001	1,398	1,650	1.34	1.25	1,873	2,062
RYE, FOR GRAIN.....	Bu.	26	15	16	12.0	15.0	14.5	303	225	232	2.41	2.30	542	534
SORGHUM, FOR GRAIN.....	Bu.	14	43	59	26.4	27.0	24.0	390	161	1,416	1.74	1.40	2,020	1,982
SORGHUM, FOR FORAGE.....	Ton	9	12	12	$\frac{a}{c}$	$\frac{a}{c}$	$\frac{a}{c}$	$\frac{a}{c}$	$\frac{a}{c}$	$\frac{a}{c}$	24.00	30.00	384	630
SORGHUM, FOR SILAGE.....	Ton	$\frac{c}{c}$	$\frac{c}{c}$	$\frac{c}{c}$	$\frac{c}{c}$	$\frac{c}{c}$	$\frac{c}{c}$	$\frac{c}{c}$	$\frac{c}{c}$	$\frac{c}{c}$	2.50	2.55	540	342
SORGHUM, FOR SEED.....	Bu.	8	3	2	70.0	72.0	67.0	590	216	134	3.57	3.27	101,471	74,066
COTTON, LINT.....	Lb.	719	745	775	345	366	280	522	569	453	71.20	51.00	17,017	9,690
COTTONSEED.....	Ton	8	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOBACCO, ALL.....	Ton	680.3	747.0	685.4	1,159	1,229	1,230	790,858	918,250	843,265	.499	.536	458,400	452,000
TYPE 11.....	Lb.	261.7	287.0	258.0	1,084	1,150	960	284,910	330,050	247,680	.481	-	158,754	-
TYPE 12.....	Lb.	328.2	356.0	331.0	1,203	1,270	1,380	395,510	452,120	456,780	.509	-	230,129	-
TYPE 13.....	Lb.	80.1	92.0	85.0	1,180	1,260	1,405	94,852	115,920	119,425	.515	-	59,699	-
TOTAL FLUO-CURED.....	Lb.	670.0	735.0	674.0	1,157	1,222	1,222	775,291	898,090	823,885	.499	-	448,582	-
TYPE 31.....	Lb.	10.3	12.0	11.4	1,487	1,680	1,700	15,567	20,160	19,380	.487	-	9,818	-
IRISH POTATOES, ALL.....	Bu.	74	42	46	132	126	133	9,513	5,292	6,118	2.49	.92	13,177	5,532
SWEET POTATOES.....	Bu.	60	38	45	107	105	105	6,492	3,990	4,725	3.43	2.60	12,285	12,285
LESPEDEZA, FOR SEED.....	Lb.	156.1	150	142	197	240	170	30,980	36,000	24,140	17.00	17.50	6,120	4,224
HAY CROPS														
ALL HAY.....	Ton	1,266	1,196	1,164	1.01	1.08	.98	1,280	1,289	1,145	33.20	32.50	42,795	37,212
ALFALFA.....	Ton	30	66	70	2.10	2.05	2.00	64	135	140	-	-	-	-
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....	Ton	93	106	98	1.14	1.10	1.10	106	117	108	-	-	-	-
LESPEDEZA.....	Ton	509	508	488	1.08	1.10	.85	551	559	415	-	-	-	-
SOYBEANS.....	Ton	157	127	136	1.12	1.05	1.00	175	133	136	-	-	-	-
COMPEARS.....	Ton	44	26	29	.89	1.00	.40	38	26	23	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS.....	Ton	250	176	164	.64	.75	.85	160	132	139	-	-	-	-
GRAINS.....	Ton	89	84	86	.97	1.00	1.00	86	84	86	-	-	-	-
OTHER HAY.....	Ton	95	103	93	1.05	1.00	1.05	99	103	98	-	-	-	-
LEGUMES														
SOYBEANS:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GROWN ALONE.....	-	400	432	397	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED.....	-	280	153	138	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....	-	540	509	466	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HARVESTED FOR BEANS.....	Bu.	252	287	263	13.4	16.5	14.5	3,434	4,736	3,814	2.59	2.55	12,266	9,726
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER.....	-	131	94	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COMPEARS:														
GROWN ALONE.....	-	75	46	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED.....	-	154	84	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....	-	152	88	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HARVESTED FOR PEAS.....	Bu.	31	20	17	4.8	5.0	5.0	147	100	85	4.50	4.90	450	416
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER.....	-	78	42	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS:														
GROWN ALONE.....	-	294	207	184	1,106	1,585	1,450	304,009	312,245	256,650	.113	.120	35,284	30,798
PICKED & THRESHED.....	Lb.	277	197	177	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FRUITS AND NUTS														



	BU.	-	-	-	-	1,067	2,053	2.15	2.50	4,414	2,182
APPLES, COMMERCIAL CROP.....	-	-	-	-	-	1,731	1,648	1.90	2.80	3,214	3,304
PEACHES, TOTAL CROP.....	-	-	-	-	-	179	172	1.90	1.85	327	248
GRAPES.....	-	-	-	-	-	2.7	2.7	2.5	160.00	432	400
PEACANS.....	-	-	-	-	-	2,290	2,546	.246	.210	626	643
IMPROVED.....	-	-	-	-	-	2,049	2,340	.250	.250	585	565
SEEDLINGS.....	-	-	-	-	-	242	2,206	.200	.160	41	78
<b>COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES g/</b>											
<b>FOR FRESH MARKET:</b>											
LIMA BEANS.....	1,600	1,500	1,400	63	60	101	90	3.00	3.20	270	269
SNAP BEANS, ALL.....	14,870	12,450	13,200	89	82	1,328	1,022	2.42	2.63	2,473	2,848
LATE SPRING.....	5,900	5,800	5,800	72	70	423	428	2.00	2.90	856	856
LATE SUMMER, WEST.....	7,900	6,300	6,600	105	90	830	567	2.75	1,559	1,568	1,568
EARLY FALL.....	1,070	450	800	70	60	75	48	2.15	2.15	58	103
BEETS.....	320	300	280	237	250	75	75	3.20	2.65	240	164
CABBAGE, ALL.....	9,700	10,200	10,200	6.4	5.8	61.1	56.3	53.20	36.29	2,995	2,061
LATE SPRING.....	2,230	1,900	2,200	6.2	5.0	13.7	9.5	35.00	29.10	338	338
LATE SUMMER.....	4,330	4,300	4,600	7.2	6.0	31.2	29.9	53.10	39.70	1,434	1,187
LATE FALL.....	2,930	3,300	3,400	5.5	6.0	16.2	19.8	33.30	35.00	536	536
CANTALOUPS, 70 LB. CRT.....	4,700	3,900	4,500	47	50	221	195	4.00	2.45	780	495
CORN, SWEET, 5 DOZ. EARS.....	7,900	8,900	8,000	97	75	762	668	1.85	1.90	1,235	1,292
CUCUMBERS.....	6,100	4,100	4,900	75	80	457	328	3.35	2.25	1,099	992
LETTUCE, L.A. CRT.....	1,270	1,500	1,500	105	125	134	188	4.25	3.50	1,658	567
GREEN PEPPERS.....	4,200	3,500	4,100	137	160	574	420	7.85	7.477	1,476	1,476
COM'L EARLY I. POTATOES.....	30,350	16,500	19,500	183	185	5,407	3,052	8.20	7.70	3,060	3,060
STRAWBERRIES, 24 QT. CRT.....	2,730	2,000	1,700	73	80	153	199	4.00	4.90	1,312	1,178
TOMATOES.....	10,270	2,200	2,700	80	70	189	176	2.20	.419	794	926
WATERMELONS.....	10,270	8,700	10,000	180	205	1,837	1,784	160.3	-	13,080	12,012
TOTAL FRESH MARKET <i>g/</i> .....	63,740	57,000	60,780	-	-	163.1	145.5	176.40	133.00	759	798
FOR PROCESSING:	2,150	2,700	3,000	1.4	1.6	2.7	4.3	1.40	1.35	1,229	1,673
SNAP BEANS.....	7,720	11,700	15,300	81	75	636	878	-	-	856,204	784,655
CUCUMBERS.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL VALUE OF ALL CROPS.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

# UNITED STATES

	BU.	-	-	-	-	3,176,615	3,279,403	1.52	1.45	4,988,554	4,605,423
CORN, ALL.....	86,447	81,099	80,279	35.2	40.4	3,036,380	3,279,403	1.52	1.45	4,988,554	4,605,423
WHEAT, ALL.....	63,910	70,926	67,608	17.1	18.3	1,086,548	1,286,937	2.09	2.01	2,714,404	2,348,852
OATS.....	39,503	38,422	39,358	33.5	32.8	1,524,614	1,260,127	1.786	1.734	390,275	892,586
BARLEY.....	11,831	8,244	8,534	25.1	27.4	295,299	226,014	1.241,015	1.35	304,532	271,132
RYE.....	2,108	1,363	1,382	12.2	11.6	25,837	16,046	1.73	1.19	21,694	21,499
COTTON, LINT.....	21,489	25,841	24,434	271.4	280.8	12,216	15,139	16,437	3.46	2,617,644	2,673,667
COTTONSEED.....	74,666	74,454	73,918	1.37	1.40	102,256	6,190	6.718	52.80	430,959	354,693
HAY, ALL.....	7,347	5,061	6,137	18.4	16.4	37,263	104,345	105.30	24.70	2,318,992	2,318,992
SORGHUM, FOR GRAIN.....	5,909	4,925	5,241	1.44	.88	8,500	4,358	109,022	1.57	129,972	137,081
SORGHUM, FOR SILAGE.....	723	708	978	6.31	5.40	3,821	3,821	6,170	25.20	109,676	100,486
SORGO SIROP.....	128	41	41	63.2	63.3	7,991	2,595	5,906	16.30	5,766	6,123
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	883	678	444	19.7	18.7	172,304	126,905	63,667	2.22	21,771	11,375
SOYBEANS, FOR BEANS.....	11,114	14,338	14,366	18.3	20.8	219,596	298,032	262,341	2.72	809,314	667,556
COPEANS, FOR PEAS.....	621	231	318	5.9	5.9	3,582	7,703	1,964	2.54	7,514	8,802
PEANUTS, FOR NUTS.....	2,951	1,464	1,508	71.4	93.7	41,007	349,098	373,711	4.01	148,278	173,649
POTATOES.....	2,265	1,402	1,508	191.2	249.0	54,331	28,532	33,974	.926	685,604	341,234
SWEET POTATOES.....	593	325	1,022	93.6	87.8	1,144,616	1,365,341	1,257,311	3.38	96,362	88,623
TOBACCO FLUE-CURED.....	987	1,111	1,022	1,144	1,229	1,948,844	2,254,512	2,046,037	2.61	686,735	1,064,534
ALL TYPES.....	1,677	1,772	1,638	1,158	1,273	1,144,616	1,365,341	1,257,311	.503	1,124,473	862,111
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....	-	-	-	-	-	109,224	92,594	2,046,037	.499	235,539	119,063
PEACHES, ALL.....	-	-	-	-	-	67,012	63,560	64,102	2.01	122,833	60,531
PEACANS.....	-	-	-	-	-	30,396	29,065	173,065	1.73	32,537	28,412
IMPROVED, (10 STATES).....	-	-	-	-	-	57,547	74,680	82,895	.220	18,752	15,010
SEEDLINGS.....	-	-	-	-	-	68,971	73,266	90,170	.188	13,785	13,402

a/ Received by farmers. b/ The values shown are for the crop year and should not be confused with calendar year income. c/ Estimates for forage and silage are not separated prior to 1952. d/ Dry weight. e/ Green weight. f/ 500 lb. gross weight basis. g/ Acres for harvest include any partially harvested or not harvested because of low prices or other economic factors. h/ Includes some production not marketed and excluded in calculating value. i/ Excludes Irish potatoes and strawberries. j/ Includes some 1949-51. k/ Includes some quantities not harvested.



## SOYBEAN CROP SMALLER THAN 1952

Acreage Off 8 Percent

North Carolina's 1953 soybean production of 3,814,000 bushels is 19 percent below the 4,736,000 bushels harvested in 1952, but is 11 percent above the 10-year average production of 3,434,000 bushels. The 263,000 acres harvested for beans in 1953 was 8 percent, or 24,000 acres, below 1952. The average yield per acre of 14.5 bushels was also below the 16.5 bushels harvested the preceding year.

Extended dry weather contributed largely to the lower yields for 1953, and some losses in production resulted from Hurricane "Barbara". Droughty conditions and prospective shortages of hay supplies also caused part of the acreage originally planted for beans to be cut for hay. Rain-fall during September was beneficial to the late seeded crop but early seedings were too far advanced to receive any appreciable benefit from the moisture. Weather conditions for harvest were unusually favorable.

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## EGG PRODUCTION CONTINUES UPWARD TREND

Record Lay in 1953

November egg production in North Carolina totaled 93 million eggs compared with 84 million produced in November of 1952. For the first 11 months of the year production of 1,294 million eggs is 7 percent above the 1,204 million produced during the corresponding period in 1952. A record high annual production is assured since production through November is only 4 million below the previous record 1,298 million produced during all of 1952.

Number of eggs laid per 100 layers increased from 954 during November of 1952 to 1,014 during the past November. There were 9.1 million layers on farms during November of 1953 compared with 8.8 million a year earlier.

United States egg production for the first eleven months of the year totaled 56.7 billion, compared with 56.0 billion during the January-November period in 1952.

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## N. C. HAY CROP SMALLEST IN 10 YEARS

The 1953 production of hay in North Carolina is estimated at 1,145,000 tons from 1,164,000 acres harvested. This is the smallest harvested acreage since 1942 and the smallest output of hay since 1941. Production in 1953 was 11 percent below 1952, and 11 percent below the 10-year (1942-51) average production of 1,280,000 tons.

The 1953 season started out with very bright prospects. In July a smaller than average acreage for harvest was anticipated, but condition of hay crops at that time indicated an all time record high yield but, drought conditions, which hit very hard in the Piedmont counties sharply reduced these bright prospects. Late summer hays, and lespedezas in particular, were cut quite short, and some acreage intended for hay was not harvested -- some alfalfa failed to produce the usual number of cuttings and most cuttings were low yielding.

Grain hay crops were harvested early and under ideal conditions -- yields for grain hay and for peanut hay in 1953 exceeded average yields for these hays. Peanut hay yields turned out to be much better than earlier expectations. For other individual kinds, yields in 1953 were below average. Harvesting operations throughout the year were accomplished under near ideal conditions.

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## SWEETPOTATO PRODUCTION UP

Acreage 18 Percent Higher

Sweetpotato production in North Carolina during 1953 totaled 4,725,000 bushels, an increase of 18 percent over the revised 1952 output of 3,990,000 bushels, but 27 percent below the 1942-51 average production of 6,492,000 bushels.

The production increase was due entirely to an 18 percent larger harvested acreage in 1953 than in 1952. This year's crop was harvested from 45,000 acres compared with 38,000 harvested acres the previous year and 60,000 acres for the 10-year average.

Growers realized an average yield per acre of 105 bushels this year -- the same as the revised 1952 yield -- but 2 bushels below the average.



## PEANUT PRODUCTION DOWN

Yields Near Record

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The 1953 peanut yield is estimated at 1,450 pounds per acre. This is the second highest yield of record exceeded only by the 1952 yield of 1,585 pounds.

The total production of picked and threshed peanuts is 18 percent below last year. A reduction in acreage of 10 percent (20,000 acres) from last year accounts for part of this decreased production. Tar Heel growers harvested 177,000 acres for nuts this year.

Weather conditions during the planting and germinating season were ideal and very good stands were obtained. Rainfall, although light in some areas, was generally adequate until the maturing season and plants made excellent growth. Droughty conditions set in as the first peanuts began to mature and pegging was retarded to some extent. However, rains during the last week in September, when the harvest usually begins, benefitted the crop considerably and harvesting was delayed somewhat in order for the crop to receive the maximum benefit from this moisture.

Favorable weather conditions followed digging and producers were able to complete their threshing operations with very little loss due to rot, excess moisture and unfavorable threshing conditions.

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## N. C. LEADS NATION IN LESPEDeza SEED PRODUCTION

As of December 1, the 1953 production of lespedeza seed (clean) in North Carolina is estimated at 24,140,000 pounds. This compares with 36,000,000 pounds harvested in 1952 and the 1942-51 average of 30,980,000. Even with this sharp decrease, North Carolina leads all other states in production this year. The yield per acre this year is now estimated at 170 pounds of clean seed, compared with 240 pounds last year and the average of 197 pounds.

Meanwhile, estimated National production this season at 64 million pounds is 50 percent smaller than last year, 63 percent below the 10-year average, and the smallest crop since 1936.

## 1.4 MILLION BUSHEL GRAIN SORGHUM CROP

Record 59,000 Acres Harvested

The 1953 all-sorghum acreage of 77,000 acres represents an increase of 19,000 acres over last year. Grain acreage accounted for 77 percent of the all-sorghum acreage as Tar Heel farmers harvested an all-time high of 59,000 acres for grain this year (an increase of 16,000 acres over the record set in 1952). The remaining 18,000 acres is comprised of 2,000, 4,000 and 12,000 acres respectively for sirup, silage and forage.

The acreage harvested for silage and forage increased considerably over previous years. Dry weather materially reduced yields of most feed crops; hence, farmers utilized more sorghum acreage for silage and forage to offset cuts in the production of other feed crops.

Sorghum sirup production continued its downward trend, with only 134,000 gallons produced as compared to 216,000 gallons in 1952.

Grain sorghum output continued to increase with the 1953 production of 1,416,000 bushels exceeding last year's crop by 255,000 bushels. This increased production shows that the crop is gaining popularity as it is able to withstand dry weather effectively and works into the crop rotation system well.

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## IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION BELOW AVERAGE

Irish potato production in North Carolina totaled 6,118,000 bushels -- 36 percent below the 1942-51 average production of 9,513,000 bushels -- but 16 percent above the revised 1952 output of 5,292,000 bushels.

The below-average production is due entirely to a smaller total harvested acreage totaled 46,000 acres compared with the 10-year average of 74,000 and last year's 42,000 acres. Yields realized by growers this year averaged 133 bushels per acre, 7 bushels above the 1952 average yield of 126 bushels and 1 bushel above the 1942-51 average yield.



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## MILK PRODUCTION AT NEW HIGH

Milk production in North Carolina totaled 137 million pounds during November, the largest November production of record for the State. This compares with the previous high November production of 125 million pounds for 1952 and the 10-year November average of 112 million pounds. Production during each of the eleven months thus far has established new monthly production records, and the total of 1,585 million pounds produced up to December 1 is 6 percent above the 1,490 million pounds produced during the same period in 1952. Both milk cows on farms and production per cow have been running at record high levels.

The upward trend in milk production has been quite pronounced during recent years. It results from increased emphasis on improved breeding and husbandry practices.

## COTTON PRODUCTION (Continued)

when shedding of squares and small bolls became heavy due to a combination of dry weather and weevil damage.

Lint yield per acre is estimated at 280 pounds, compared with 366 pounds in 1952 and the 10-year average of 345 pounds per acre. Except for the disastrous crop of 1950, when boll weevils got more than 50 percent of the crop, and the poor crop of 1949, yield this year was the smallest since 1938.

The December estimate places acreage in cultivation July 1 at 781,600 acres -- 28,000 acres, or about 4 percent, more than the 753,000 acres (revised) in cultivation on this date a year earlier and 52,000 acres, or 7 percent, more than the 10-year average acreage in cultivation July 1.

North Carolina growers harvested 775,000 acres of cotton this year -- 30,000 acres, or 4 percent, more than was harvested in 1952 and 56,000 acres, or nearly 8 percent, more than average.